

**Amendments to the Claims**

1 Claim 1 (original): A method of selectively accepting content for caching, comprising steps of:  
2 receiving, at a cache store, a request message inquiring whether the cache store will  
3 accept particular content for caching;  
4 deciding, responsive to receiving the request message, whether the cache store will accept  
5 or reject the particular content; and  
6 sending, from the cache store, a response to the request message, wherein the response  
7 indicates the cache store's decision.

1 Claim 2 (original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
2 subsequently receiving, at the cache store, the particular content only if the response  
3 indicated that the cache store's decision was to accept the particular content.

1 Claim 3 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the request message describes the  
2 particular content.

1 Claim 4 (original): The method according to Claim 3, wherein the deciding step uses the  
2 description.

1 Claim 5 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the request message specifies the  
2 particular content's size, and wherein the deciding step further comprises deciding whether  
3 content of that size may be advantageously cached by the cache store.

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1 Claim 6 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the request message specifies the  
2 particular content's type, and wherein the deciding step further comprises deciding whether  
3 content of that type may be advantageously cached by the cache store.

1 Claim 7 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the request message specifies the  
2 particular content's security classification, and wherein the deciding step further comprises  
3 deciding whether content of that security classification may be advantageously cached by the  
4 cache store.

1 Claim 8 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the request message specifies the  
2 particular content's hit rate, and wherein the deciding step further comprises deciding whether  
3 content having that hit rate may be advantageously cached by the cache store.

1 Claim 9 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the request message specifies the  
2 particular content's hit rate, and wherein the deciding step further comprises deciding whether  
3 that hit rate is higher than hit rates associated with other content already cached by the cache  
4 store and if so, deciding to accept the particular content.

1 Claim 10 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the deciding step considers  
2 historical metrics associated with the particular content.

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1 Claim 11 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the deciding step considers  
2 resources of the cache store.

1 Claim 12 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the deciding step considers  
2 currently-available resources of the cache store.

1 Claim 13 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the request message and the  
2 response are encoded in a structured markup language.

1 Claim 14 (original): The method according to Claim 13, wherein the structured markup language  
2 is Extensible Markup Language ("XML").

1 Claim 15 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the request message includes an  
2 identifier of the particular content and wherein the identifier is also included in the response.

1 Claim 16 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the deciding step compares a  
2 priority associated with the particular content to priorities associated with already-cached  
3 content.

1 Claim 17 (original): The method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of storing the  
2 subsequently-received particular content at the cache store.

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1 Claim 18 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 2, further comprising the steps  
2 of:

3 remembering, when the deciding step decides to accept the particular content, which  
4 already-cached content will be replaced with the particular content; and

5 storing the subsequently-received particular content at the cache store while replacing the  
6 remembered content.

1 Claim 19 (original): A system for selectively accepting content for caching, comprising:

2 means for receiving, at a cache store, a request message inquiring whether the cache store  
3 will accept particular content for caching;

4 means for deciding, responsive to receiving the request message, whether the cache store  
5 will accept or reject the particular content; and

6 means for sending, from the cache store, a response to the request message, wherein the  
7 response indicates the cache store's decision.

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): The system according to Claim ~~[[10]]~~ 19, further comprising:

2 means for subsequently receiving, at the cache store, the particular content only if the  
3 response indicated that the cache store's decision was to accept the particular content.

1 Claim 21 (currently amended): The system according to Claim ~~[[10]]~~ 19, wherein the request  
2 message specifies the particular content's size, and wherein the means for deciding further  
3 comprises means for deciding whether content of that size may be advantageously cached by the

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4 cache store.

1 Claim 22 (currently amended): The system according to Claim ~~[[10]]~~ 19, wherein the request  
2 message specifies the particular content's type, and wherein the means for deciding further  
3 comprises means for deciding whether content of that type may be advantageously cached by the  
4 cache store.

1 Claim 23 (currently amended): The system according to Claim ~~[[10]]~~ 19, wherein the request  
2 message specifies the particular content's security classification, and wherein the means for  
3 deciding further comprises means for deciding whether content of that security classification may  
4 be advantageously cached by the cache store.

1 Claim 24 (currently amended): A computer program product for selectively accepting content  
2 for caching, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media  
3 and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for receiving, at a cache store, a request  
5 message inquiring whether the cache store will accept particular content for caching;

6 computer-readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for deciding, responsive to receiving the  
7 request message, whether the cache store will accept or reject the particular content; and

8 ~~[[s]]~~ computer-readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for ~~ending sending~~, from the cache store,  
9 a response to the request message, wherein the response indicates the cache store's decision.

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1 Claim 25 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 24,  
2 further comprising:  
3 computer-readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for subsequently receiving, at the cache store,  
4 the particular content only if the response indicated that the cache store's decision was to accept  
5 the particular content.

1 Claim 26 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 24,  
2 wherein the request message specifies the particular content's hit rate, and wherein the computer-  
3 readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for deciding further comprises computer-readable program  
4 code ~~[[means]]~~ for deciding whether content having that hit rate may be advantageously cached  
5 by the cache store.

1 Claim 27 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 24,  
2 wherein the request message specifies the particular content's hit rate, and wherein the computer-  
3 readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for deciding further comprises computer-readable program  
4 code ~~[[means]]~~ for deciding whether that hit rate is higher than hit rates associated with other  
5 content already cached by the cache store and if so, deciding to accept the particular content.

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